

NYCTM

**Administration for
Children's Services**



**The New York City Council,
Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses
October 2, 2013**

**Testimony by
Mary Anne Szabo, Associate General Counsel
New York City Administration for Children's Services**

Good morning Chair Lander and members of the Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses. My name is Mary Anne Szabo, and I work in the General Counsel's Office at the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS). I am here today with my colleague Kenneth Robison, also from ACS' General Counsel's Office. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you regarding the two land use applications that we submitted in January, 2013.

Since the early 1970s, New York City has leased space at both locations that are the subjects of our applications - 600 Hart Street and 200 Central Avenue – and contracted with early care and education organizations to provide child care services to serve families in the neighborhoods of Bedford Stuyvesant and Bushwick in Brooklyn. On January 17, 2013, ACS submitted the required ULURP application to extend both leases at 600 Hart Street and 200 Central Avenue in order to continue providing early care and education services to the community. On May 20, 2013, the City Planning Commission certified both applications and on July 23, 2013, Brooklyn Community Board 4 and Borough President Marty Markowitz's Office granted approval for both applications.

As the Council is aware, New York City is a lease holder for many buildings in which city funded services are provided. In 2012, New York City introduced *EarlyLearnNYC*, a model of early care and education that merges the funding for quality child care and early education to create a single, seamless system with a uniform set of standards. Of the 365 *EarlyLearnNYC* program locations, 82 are located in city-leased sites. 600 Hart Street and 200 Central Avenue are both city-leased locations in which subsidized early care and education services have been and continue to be provided. ACS sought to extend these leases in order to continue to provide these services.

600 Hart Street

On September 9, 2011, the Bushwick United Housing Development Fund Corp applied for an *EarlyLearnNYC* contract to serve children at 600 Hart Street in Brooklyn. Bushwick United was recommended for an award to provide early care and education services and has been located at this site since October 2012. Bushwick United's program at 600 Hart Street serves up to 100 preschoolers and 10 toddlers. Pre-school children may attend the program full-time from

8:00am to 6:00pm, Monday through Friday. The children are taken to and from the center by their parents, enabling the parents to work, attend school, or acquire vocational training.

The program staff at the child care center consists of approximately 24 individuals, including: six teachers, six assistants, six aids, four kitchen staff and two custodians. The site is located in Brooklyn Community District 4. The facility is a one story building with cellar and a rooftop play area. The building contains approximately 22,419 square feet of interior floor area and a roof play area of approximately 8,257 square feet, totaling approximately 30,686 square feet. The center is accessible by public transportation, specifically, the J, 3, M, A, and C trains as well as the B54 bus.

200 Central Avenue

On September 9, 2011, the Bushwick United Housing Development Fund Corp also applied for an *EarlyLearnNYC* contract to serve children at 200 Central Avenue in Brooklyn. Bushwick United was recommended for an award and has been located at this site, which has the capacity to serve up to 130 preschoolers, since October 2012. At 200 Central Avenue, Pre-school children may attend the program full time from 7:30am to 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday. The children are taken to and from the center by their parents, enabling the parents to work, attend school, or acquire vocational training.

The program staff at the child care program consists of approximately 28 staff members. This site is located in Brooklyn Community District 4. The facility is a 3 story building with a roof play area and a grade play area. The building contains approximately 24500 square feet of floor area, including 4,660 square feet of roof area and 1,200 square feet of grade level play area. The child care center uses the cellar, first floor, second floor, third floor, and the rooftop as a play area. The center is conveniently accessible by public transportation including the M train and the #38 bus.

Closing

ACS is committed to providing quality early care and education to children and families from low income communities that will prepare them to enter kindergarten and beyond. We thank the Council for providing us the opportunity to discuss our lease extension applications for

these two child care centers. Ken and I would be happy to address any questions you have regarding these two applications.

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Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 243 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition
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Name: MARYANNE SZABO
Address: 150 WILLIAM ST, NYC
I represent: ACS
Address: 150 WILLIAM ST, NYC

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Appearance Card

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I represent: ACS
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